

40 WEEKS EARL BLUMENAUER #16 Preserving the Lacey Act 40 IDEAS

For the past several months, there has been increased focus in Congress on the Lacey Act, a law that is more than 100 years old and protects American businesses from having to compete with illegally harvested goods from other countries. However, despite the Lacey Act's success in protecting both American industry and the environment, there are currently significant efforts in the form of the FOCUS Act and the RELIEF Act that would repeal important provisions and severely hamper the Lacey Act's effectiveness.

In 2008, Congressman Blumenauer lead a bipartisan effort, supported by the timber industry, consumers, importers, labor unions, conservationists, and the Bush administration, to strengthen the Lacey Act. Specifically, Blumenauer focused on illegal logging, which threatens not only ecologically important forests around the world, but also subjects the U.S. forest products industry – including many in Oregon - to unfair competition from illegal loggers. By taking the time to act together in a thoughtful and conscientious way, Blumenauer was able to work with these interests to find a solution, thoroughly vet the legislation, and pass it into law. This kind of collaborative cooperation is an example of exactly how our legislative process should work.



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